

**At Close  
Quarters.****Highlanders Clubbed the Foe  
in the Death Trap at  
Magersfontein.****Burial Party See Evidence of  
Exceptional Danger British  
Troops Faced.****Boers Concealing Extent of  
Casualties—Free Staters  
Leaving for Home.**

Modder River, Dec. 15.—Mutual arrangements were made by the British and Boer commanders by which the British were to be buried on Wednesday and Thursday. The Boers stipulated, however, that only a clergyman of the Reformed Church should officiate and that the British should not come within 600 yards of their lines. Mr. Robertson, the Presbyterian chaplain of one of the Highland regiments, who had previously been of great help, was selected to conduct the burial of the slain at Magersfontein. The Engineers who acted as litter bearers were blinded when they reached the Boer outposts. Gen. Cronje, the Boer commander, sent a message regretting that he could not bury personally. The Boer commander sent Commandant Vermeas, Intelligence Officer Draper and Field Cornet Willis to assist Mr. Robertson in locating the dead, and afterwards Colonel Doctor Cronje joined them, and found he knew many of the dead. A few of the Boers cast furtive glances at the party, but the majority of them co-operated with the English in the kindest manner. They said they would have given full details regarding the English dead, wounded and prisoners if the British would furnish them with similar information. The English officials had already prepared these details and had them ready.

Chaplain Robertson buried 32 on Wednesday and 70 on Thursday. The Boers declared that their casualties at Magersfontein were 262 and that they had only 63 killed. This must be a mistake, as the British buried 45 and during the first search of the British on Tuesday many Boer corpses were seen under the bushes. These had been removed on Thursday when the British burial party returned.

Several of the Boers had been killed with the butts of rifles. Some of the Highlanders got so close to the trenches that their kilts were torn off in the confusion.

The Boers say they would have annihilated them but were afraid of killing their own men in the front trenches. The Boers have 42 British prisoners, of whom 45 are members of the Black Watch.

Chaplain Robertson says that what seemed like deserted kopjes and ridges swarmed with men as they approached. Commandant Vermeas treated him in the kindest manner, and he returned twice to see if he could be of any further assistance, and shook hands with Mr. Robertson on parting.

The Boer army is made up almost exclusively of Transvaal burghers. It is said that the Boers have already dispersed and gone home. Some of the western Transvaal burghers have gone to the Johannesburg district. Many of the Boers speak English.

The Boers say the Lyddite shells were harmless when they fell on the earth but very destructive when they fell on the trenches. Only one of four exploded. Boer prisoners boasted that they could have held Magersfontein for two weeks. They said that if the Highland brigade had marched and formed the trenches after the first surprise, the British loss would have been heavier because the Boers from the kopjes on the side were ready to enfilade the trenches if they had been captured.

The Gordon Highlanders were held in reserve until 10 o'clock on Monday morning when they went forward in wide order toward the base of the east kopje. They got within 500 yards of this point when they suddenly encountered a strong cross fire. The Boers had allowed them to reach the point where they were concealed in the trenches, and then the burghers enfiladed the Highlanders. In the early part of the day the Highland brigade demolished the Scandinavian contingent of 200. Some of these Scandinavians were taken prisoners. They look like tramps. It is stated that the Boer force numbered 16,000.

The Free State troops were at the base of the hill and the Transvaal troops along the right of the trench. The Boers opened fire on the Transvaal troops in the direction of the hospital was pitiable. Many burghers could be seen helping wounded comrades into wagons and then driving off.

The Boers are almost invisible from Modder River. Occasionally they are noticed rounding the side of a kopje. A captive balloon behind the British lines was trained so as to give a view to the east and west and report the effect of the shell fire. It was too far distant from the enemy, however, to be of great service.

Parties who were out looking for the wounded on Tuesday morning saw the Boers burying their dead in a long trench around the base of the hill, where the first firing took place.

A Boer doctor accompanied the British ambulance corps among the wounded on the field this morning.

**VICTIMS OF TUGELA.**

Son of General Lord Roberts of Kandahar Added to British List.

London, Dec. 16.—In addition to the list already published, Posenby, of Thronycroft's Mounted Infantry, and Lieut. the Hon. P. H. S. Roberts, son of Lord Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, were among the officers wounded

**FRENCH AND GATACRE.****Energy Found in Force in Cape Farmer's  
House—Large Volunteer  
Corps Accepted.**

Capetown, Dec. 13.—Gen. French is gradually advancing toward Colesberg.

A party of Carbineers visited the house of a Dutch farmer and were assured that there was no enemy in the neighborhood. When they were leaving they were fired on from the house. The Horse Artillery shelled the house, killing several of the enemy.

It is stated that Gatacre has fallen back to his original position. It is the general opinion here that he should occupy Cyper Gat, where there is a very strong position called Bushman's Kraal. There are reports of uneasiness in Basutoland. The natives are restless in account of Gen. Gatacre's capture and are clamoring for arms. It is believed, however, that Sir Godfrey Langdon, the British resident commissioner, has the Basutos well in hand. Mr. Seymour, advising engineer to the Elkssteins, has offered to raise a volunteer engineer force of 2,000 to assist the regulars, and the offer has been accepted.

**WINSTON CHURCHILL'S ESCAPE.****Small Chance of His Crossing Transvaal  
Border, Though Making a  
Clever Start.**

London, Dec. 16.—A special from Pretoria dated Wednesday, December 13, says: "Before the escape of Winston Churchill he wrote to the Transvaal war office, declaring that, as a correspondent, he considered his detention as a prisoner unjustifiable. He expressed in his letter the highest appreciation of his treatment. His escape was cleverly executed, but there is little chance of his being able to cross the border."

**High Treason  
In Dublin.****Transvaal Committee Make De-  
monstration on Occasion of  
Chamberlain's Visit.****Members of Parliament Call on  
Powers to Assist Queen's  
Enemies.**

Dublin, Dec. 17.—The announcement that a pro-Boer meeting would be convened today as a protest against the proposal of Trinity College to confer a degree upon Mr. Joseph Chamberlain led to exciting scenes. A large force of police was called out and the troops were held in readiness.

Maud Gonne, the so-called "Irish Joan of Arc," and Mr. James Connolly, the Irish republican, drove in a wagonette to the place appointed for the meeting, which was attended by a large crowd. Mr. Connolly tried to speak but was prevented by the police. The wagonette then made a tour of the streets, the crowd rapidly increasing, cheering for the Boers and singing "God Save Ireland," and "We'll hang Joe Chamberlain on a sour apple tree," and using disgusting expressions against the Queen, the Empire and the army.

While passing Public Castle, the occupants of the wagonette waved the Transvaal flag defiantly, whereupon the police stopped the vehicle and seized the flag. The wagonette, attended by a large body of police, who often cleared the street, then drove to the room of the Irish Transvaal committee, where Michael Davitt, Wm. Redmond and J. O'Brien were waiting. A meeting of about sixty persons was held. Messrs. Davitt, Redmond and O'Brien speaking in violent condemnation of the war at sea, of Chamberlain, and declaring that the latter's visit to Ireland at such a moment was proof of his cautious nature. The speakers urged that should an opportunity occur, Dublinites ought to show their detestation of the colonial secretary in unmistakable fashion.

Mr. Davitt said: "All Irishmen rejoice in the triumphs of the Boers. No power in Europe would now fear Great Britain except perhaps the Prince of Monaco."

Mr. Redmond said: "Mr. Chamberlain deserves not a doctor's but an executioner's death."

Ultimately a resolution proposed by Mr. Davitt was passed denouncing the war and calling upon the powers, particularly the United States, to take steps to ensure the independence of the Boer Republic. The meeting closed between tremendous cheers evoked by a rumor that Lady Smith had fallen. Maud Gonne and Mr. Connolly drove off with the intention of holding an open-air meeting but the police arrested Connolly.

**COLOURS OF THE BUFFS.****Deposited in Cathedral Sanctuary on  
Departure of Famous Regiment.**

London, Dec. 15.—A striking ceremony, like those of the days of the Crusades, was witnessed at Canterbury on Saturday afternoon, when a large company of the East Kent Regiment, known as the "Buffs," marched to the cathedral, escorting the regimental colors, which were placed in the sanctuary. Dean Farrer accepted the safekeeping of the colors in an impressive ceremony, and addressed words of sympathy and encouragement to the soldiers, who sail for Africa in a few days.

British regiments no longer carry the precious colors in foreign wars, but deposit them in their home churches.

**INDOOR WHEELING.**

New York, Dec. 16.—Harry Elkes, of America, defeated Edouard Taylor, of France, in the hour passed international

**The Empire  
Menaced****London Times Declares the  
Issue Is British Position as  
Great Power.****Cape Dutch Generally Turbu-  
lent and Rebellion Spread-  
ing at the North.****Warning by Sir Wm. Butler  
Recalled—Conspicuous  
Gallantry of Troops.**

London, Dec. 18.—The Times commenting on the situation says: "Neither the Crimean war, nor the Indian mutiny gave rise to greater dangers to the Empire than that with which we are now menaced, nor at either of those critical periods was Great Britain so isolated politically or regarded with such dislike and suspicion as are now almost every-where apparent."

"Unless the calmness which impresses the foreign observer proceeds only from apathy or a want of sufficient imagination to realize the imminent danger to the whole fabric of our Empire, the great efforts now urgently required will surely be made before it is too late to retrieve the situation."

"We are fighting not merely for supremacy in South Africa, but for our position as a great power. We know we have miscalculated the strength of our foe and we are resolved to make that miscalculation good."

**CAPE DUTCH TURBULENCE.**

Capetown, Thursday, Dec. 14.—Secret meetings of Boer sympathizers continue to be held in various parts of Cape Colony, and the attitude of the Dutch farmers is turbulent.

Sterkstroom, Cape Colony, Friday, Dec. 15.—As a result of the British reverses, the whole country to the northward is virtually in a state of rebellion, the natives there, as well as those in Basutoland, being said to be much disturbed, and to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British.

London, Dec. 18.—The war office has received the following despatch from General Forester-Walker, at Capetown, dated December 17: "The situation reports that Lieut. Charles Pole was taken prisoner last Thursday while going to meet a flag of truce. He was waving his handkerchief in response and was unarméd."

Gatacre has removed his troops and stores to Sterkstroom from Paterson's Kraal. French has established headquarters at Amudal.

"Vandermeer, with a commando, is reported moving south from Jacobsdal."

**COMMENT FROM LONDON.**

London, Dec. 18.—"Black week" as last week is universally called now, has evidently aroused the government and the war office to a full sense of their responsibility and of the magnitude of the task before them, and the papers unanimously applaud this realization. Rumor says that the question of expense has really been at the bottom of the half-hearted measures hitherto adopted, and it is not unlikely that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chairman of the exchequer, and other members of the cabinet will resign.

The tragic circumstance of the appointment of Lord Roberts almost simultaneously with the announcement of the death of his promising son, excites the deepest public sympathy. Lieut. Roberts was an only son and had been his father's aide-de-camp since 1885. He served in Waziristan and in the Chitral and Nile expeditions. Such was his display of gallantry on Friday in an attempt to reach the guns that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

The Liberal organs forebode a serious reckoning for the government when the time comes. The Daily Chronicle says that General Sir Wm. Butler, who was recalled from the Cape command because of his Boer sympathies long ago, advised the government that the prosecution of Mr. Chamberlain's policy would make heavy reinforcements for the Cape imperative.

The Daily News says: "The government's decision is either a counsel of panic or the confusion of utter miscalculation."

**NEWS FROM THE FRONT.**

Lieut. Gen. Sir Charles Warren, commanding the fifth division of the first army corps, has arrived at Capetown. It is understood he will proceed to Port Elizabeth.

Further news has been received regarding the battle at Tugela River. The latest facts regarding the battle at Magersfontein show that the retirement of the British troops was executed with the greatest coolness and order under a heavy Boer artillery fire.

Mr. Baden-Powell, the British commander here, was still actively pushing out his defenses. At that time the Boers had offered to exchange Lady Sarah Wilson, who was captured while acting as a correspondent for the Daily Mail, for Gen. Buller, who was captured at Eladungatze, but the offer was declined. The other beleaguered garrisons and positions are still holding out.

It is said that if the Victoria Cross were to be granted for every act of conspicuous gallantry on the part of British troops, it would be necessary to distribute the decoration by the hundreds.

**TWO LAUNCHES.**

A Commander on the Clyde and a Holland American Liner from German Shipyard.

London, Dec. 16.—The Cunard Line steamer Saxonia will be launched to-day at the Clyde yards.

Hamburg, Dec. 16.—The new twin-screw steamship Potsdam, built for the Holland-American line, was launched here today. She will be ready for service

**MAFEEKING EASIER.****Believes the Siege About to Be Raised—  
Death Busy With Woman  
and Children.**

London, Dec. 17.—An undated despatch from Mafeking to the Pall Mall Gazette says:

"The siege will probably be raised in a few days, when the townspeople will tender their thanks to Col. Baden-Powell."

"The enemy's fire has slackened. Our casualties are confined to natives almost entirely. There are a few wounded in the hospital."

"There is much sickness in the women's laager, where the death rate is high, chiefly amongst the children."

**MILITIA AND VOLUNTEERS.****May Be Called Upon for African Service—  
Will Be No Lack of Them.**

London, Dec. 16.—Right Hon. Walter Long, president of the board of agriculture, speaking at the shipbrokers' dinner in Liverpool last evening, intimated that the cabinet committee on national defence had considered the advisability of utilizing the militia and volunteers for service abroad. He emphatically asserted that the government in no way attempted to interfere with the generals in their military operations. Some think that another 100,000 men are wanted, and though for his own part he failed to see that the necessity had arisen, if it does arise the 100,000 will be forthcoming and they will be sent.

**NATAL SETTLERS' LOSSES.**

Durban, Dec. 16.—The Natal government announces that Gen. Buller has appointed a commission to enquire into the losses of the people of the colony resulting from the Boer invasion.

**War Supplies  
From America.****Five Million Cartridges Shipped  
the Other Day and Other  
Orders Noted.****Boer Agents Making Protests  
Though Their Government  
Rebuffs the States.**

New York, Dec. 17.—When the Union Metallic Cartridge Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., shipped from this port 5,000,000 rounds of ammunition to England on Tuesday last, Dr. Hendrick Miller, envoy extraordinary of the Orange Free State, filed through Consul-General Charles D. Pierce, a protest with Secretary of State Hay. Other orders of the British for ammunition are being filed by the Bridgeport company, and Dr. Miller made the protest with the hope of preventing the shipment of these.

Consul-General Pierce received a reply from Secretary Hay yesterday. He refuses to interfere, stating that in the case of war belligerents have the right to purchase any kind of goods in neutral countries subject to consignment after shipment. As the Boers have no seaport, the advantage lies entirely with England. When Mr. Pierce was seen at the consulate, he said that no comment could be made to Secretary Hay's refusal, as it answered all protests completely.

Major J. Fowler, of the 21st Royal Lancashire, arrived on the steamship Eurymedea today en route to New Orleans to purchase 900 mules to be shipped to the British army in South Africa.

Sir Percy Sanderson, the British consul-general at New York, stated yesterday that hundreds of loyal Britons had called at the consulate on State street to offer their services to the British army in fighting the Boers. Many of them were veterans of other wars, while a great many were striplings. "The consul-general has no authority to enlist their services," said Sir Percy, "and there are no moneys with which to transport them to the seat of war. The British consulate is not a recruiting station."

The Washington correspondence of the Sun says: "The act of the Boer authorities in granting only part of the concessions requested by this government in behalf of the British prisoners at Pretoria, has apparently intensified instead of abated the feeling of official circles here growing out of the manner in which the Boers have treated the humanitarian overtures of the United States. The attitude of the Boers is regarded here as not only contrary to the usages of civilized warfare, but extremely disrespectful to the United States, a neutral nation, which is actuated merely by humanitarian motives in endeavoring to care for the British prisoners. So far as the officials here are able to discover, there is nothing that this government may do with propriety to bring about a change in the attitude of the Boers other than to continue to press for more favorable treatment for the captured soldiers of the British army."

**MONTREAL'S NEW ELEVATOR.****Core Exchange Committee at Last  
Accept the Buffalo Syndicate  
Scheme.**

Montreal, Dec. 17.—A meeting of the Corn Exchange Association committee was held on Saturday afternoon when a resolution was passed by a majority vote approving generally of the Corners elevator scheme. The capitulating of the elevator practically clears away all the opposition.

Montreal, Dec. 16.—The Cunard Line steamer Saxonia will be launched to-day at the Clyde yards.

Hamburg, Dec. 16.—The new twin-screw steamship Potsdam, built for the Holland-American line, was launched here today. She will be ready for service

**CYCLONE IN MOZAMBIQUE.**

Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa, Dec. 17.—This island was swept to-day by a terrific cyclone which did much damage.

**Roberts and  
Kitchener.****Heroes of Kandahar and Khar-  
toun to Direct South  
African Campaign.****British Militia and Volunteer  
Battalions Now Taken for  
Service Abroad.****Colonial Offers Also Accepted  
With Preference for Mount-  
ed Contingents.**

London, Dec. 17.—Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, commander of the forces in Ireland, has been appointed to the chief command in South Africa, with General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum as his chief of staff. Shortly before midnight the following notice was posted at the war office:

"As the campaign in Natal, in the opinion of Her Majesty's government, is likely to require the presence and undivided attention of General Sir Redvers Buller, it has been decided to send Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford as commander-in-chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as chief of staff, to proceed to South Africa without delay."

"The commander-in-chief in South Africa has been authorized to continue to raise at his discretion local troops, mounted."

The war office to-day issued the following announcement: "Acting upon the advice of the military authorities, Her Majesty's government has approved the following measure: All the remaining portions of the army reserve, including section D, are called out. The seventh division, which is being mobilized, will proceed to South Africa without delay."

"Nine battalions of militia, in addition to the two battalions which have already volunteered for service at Malta and one for service in the Channel Islands, will be allowed to volunteer for service outside of the United Kingdom, and an equivalent number of militia battalions will be embodied for service at home."

"A strong force of volunteers selected from the Yeomanry will be formed for service in South Africa."

"Arrangements are being made and will shortly be announced for the employment in South Africa of a strong contingent of carefully selected Volunteers. The patriotic offers being received from the colonies, will as far as possible be accepted, preference being given to offers of mounted contingents."

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**GERMANY WOULD PROFIT.****Canvassing Chances of Turning to Ad-  
vantage the British Difficulties  
in Africa.**

London, Dec. 16.—The grave situation confronting Great Britain in South Africa almost obliterates the effect of the speech of the German minister of foreign affairs, Count Von Bülow, in the Reichstag on Monday last, though scarcely any announcement in recent years has so much bearing on the future of Europe. In spite of the unflinching comment in some English quarters that Count Von Bülow spoke merely for political effect, in other words "pollied," the Reichstag by means of jingoistic sophistries for home consumption to pay for the new navy, in Vienna, which is in a closer touch with Berlin than any other capital, Count Von Bülow is interpreted as flinging down the gauntlet to Great Britain.

The Neue Freie Presse, which has personal connection with the foreign minister of Germany, declares Germany is determined to take the greatest possible advantage of the South African complications, and adds: "The cool mention of England dissipates all apprehensions induced by Emperor William's stay at Windsor, and it is not impossible that England's difficulty, in certain circumstances, may be Germany's opportunity."

The Vienna correspondent of the Standard, detailing much more similar comment, reiterates what has often been heard here, namely that Great Britain is more hated on the Continent on account of her interference on behalf of the United States when the latter was at war with Spain, than for any other cause. Why Count Von Bülow should have gone out of his way to intimate the impossibility of Great Britain's hostility, and belittle the friendship between her and Germany, is an enigma. The consensus of the best opinion leads to the belief that the German minister wishes to offset Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's speech at Leicester, yet this seems a small excuse for such language at this period, while the suggestion that Count Von Bülow spoke for purely political effect is dismissed as being entirely uncharacteristic of the man, who is rapidly achieving the reputation of being the first statesman in Europe.

**CAUGHT AN ECLIPSE.**

Geneva, N.Y., Dec. 16.—Dr. W. R. Brooks, director of the South Observatory, made observations of the eclipse of the moon to-night. A large number of photographs were made by Brooks with the large telescope. The shadow was reddish in color.

**VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT.**

Madrid, Dec. 17.—The Spanish government has formally recognized Gen. Cipriano

**CONTINENTAL OPINION.****Buller's Reverse Held to Involve Loss  
of British Prestige—Sample  
Utterances.**

Berlin, Dec. 18.—A distinguished member of the diplomatic corps in a discussion to-day regarding Gen. Buller's reverse, said:

"It seems morally far more for Great Britain than the loss of the battle. Her prestige, after the defeats of last week, has fallen enormously on the Continent, and it will be many years before she will again venture to assume a similar tone toward a great power as she took in the Fashoda affair."

Most of the Berlin papers as well as those throughout the country, comment upon Gen. Buller's defeat in a serious and dignified tone though with a considerable undercurrent of satisfaction at what they style England's humiliation all round. It is admitted, they say, that Great Britain is now fighting to save her South African possessions. The general belief is that Sir Redvers Buller acted prematurely and under pressure from the home government.

The official papers take a rather gloomy view, as if apprehensive of awkward complications. The Kreuzer Zeitung says: "Great Britain's decadence is now apparent to the whole world." The Vossische Zeitung thinks it would be hopeless for England to match herself against a great power.

Military papers severely criticize British tactics.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—The Novoye Vremya which does not conceal its pleasure at Gen. Buller's defeat, says: "The whole campaign must now be re-estimated, and under altogether different conditions of opinion in England."

The Suiet says: "The Almighty is manifestly bestowing His blessing on the Boer arms. God is punishing an arrogant and rapacious people who have oppressed and persecuted other races in order to enrich themselves."

**Acceptance of  
Colonial Troops.****A War Office announcement of  
yesterday says:**

"The patriotic offers being received from the colonies will as far as possible be accepted, preference being given to offers of mounted contingents."

**THE WAR FEVER.****Canadians Are Anxious to Send Another  
Contingent and Preparations Are  
Being Made.**

Toronto, Dec. 16.—Military opinion in Toronto is at fever heat. The Boers are British reverses in South Africa. There is a general feeling in favor of sending more men, and as British forces are weakest in cavalry and artillery it is suggested a battery of artillery and a regiment of cavalry be recruited from this province. It is understood that Col. Gussatt, chief of police, who commanded the Grenadiers in the Northwest rebellion, has volunteered for active service.

Halifax, Dec. 16.—Col. Colard says the Leicester Regiment may be ordered to the Cape as England wants every available man. In that event the militia will be wanted to do garrison duty here.

Quebec, Dec. 16.—Orders were received at the military stores department from Ottawa yesterday to prepare thousands of carbines, such as are served out to cavalry and artillery, and from information received from an official source the order has already been executed. It is understood that batteries A and B will make a part of the second Canadian contingent. Every soldier of the permanent force of artillery seems to be disposed to enlist and it is stated here by men supposed to know that the names of seven hundred men have already been sent to Ottawa for a second contingent.

**ILLWILL OF PARIS.****Accidents to British Arms in Africa  
Paraded as Proof of Military  
Weakness of the Empire.**

Paris, Dec. 16.—The violently Anglophobic press, such as La Libre Parole and La Lanterne, are endeavoring to prepare thousands of carbines, such as are served out to cavalry and artillery, and from information received from an official source the order has already been executed. It is understood that batteries A and B will make a part of the second Canadian contingent. Every soldier of the permanent force of artillery seems to be disposed to enlist and it is stated here by men supposed to know that the names of seven hundred men have already been sent to Ottawa for a second contingent.

The Journal des Debates expresses admiration at the wonderful calmness and sang froid with which the British nation has met the reverse after blunder. The paper concludes with the remark that it would be a heavy blow to the social organization of Great Britain if Mr. Chamberlain's venture brings her to conscription. Le Temps also comments upon the weakness of Great Britain's army, and says: "The French army, in any emergency, is ready to take the field, and says: 'Mr. Chamberlain did not suspect that in letting loose war he was going to reveal the insufficiency of the military forces of the British Colonies.'"

La Patrie, which tells its readers that Mr. Chamberlain is seeking to bring about a war with France in order to restore in the eyes of Europe Great Britain's prestige, so shaken by defeats of her army by the Boers, says that a few more disasters like that of Magersfontein and Tugela River will mean a British war with France in the coming spring, and declares that the concentration of the French northern fleet at Brest and the recall of the Mediterranean squadron to Toulon are the first precautionary measures taken by the French authorities.

"The British army," La Patrie adds, "has lived a century upon the reputation of the Duke of Wellington, and perhaps the navy also lives solely on the reputation of Nelson. The war in Africa has demonstrated the weakness of the British army, the incapacity of its chiefs, and the strength of its troops who only had to fight savages."

**STEAMSHIPS REPORTED.**

New York, Dec. 16.—Arrived—Steamer

**The Queen's  
Christmas****Her Majesty to Remain at  
Windsor Because of the  
African Situation.****Not for Years Has the Festival  
Day Been Spent Away  
from Osborne.****Americans Appreciative of Gift  
to the Maine—Productive  
Farewell Banquet.**

London, Dec. 18.—The Court News makes the following announcement: "The arrangements made for the Queen's departure from Windsor have been postponed until after Christmas, as owing to the present state of affairs in South Africa the Queen is unwilling to be a great distance from London."

Not for years before has the Queen decided to spend Christmas away from Osborne. Her decision to remain at Windsor in touch with the cabinet is a measure of the gravity of the crisis and of the anxiety Her Majesty feels for the welfare of the country. She is, nevertheless, in fair health.

The Queen's graceful act in presenting a flag to the American hospital ship Maine is highly appreciated by her own people as well as the Americans in London, and the morning papers express the hope that the incident means something more than a pretty ceremony.

The farewell banquet at Carlton hotel last evening in aid of the fund for the American hospital ship Maine realized £2,000. Among those present were the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Marquis of Lorne, United States Ambassador Choate and Mrs. Choate, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs. Arthur Paget and Baron de Staal, the Russian ambassador.

New York, Dec. 17.—At the services in the Anglo-American Free Church of St. George the Martyr of this city to-day, special prayers for deliverance from war were read. This was at the request of Queen Victoria, who recently asked that in all the English churches prayers be offered for the welfare of the English army in South Africa.

RANTERS IN CONGRESS.

Wax Eloquent on Iniquity of British in  
Defending Themselves Against  
Boer Raiders.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, has introduced in the house a joint resolution declaring a state of war exists in South Africa and according belligerent rights to the Transvaal government.







## May Have Been The Colusa.

**Bark Reported as on Bonilla Answers Description of Missing Craft.**

**Possibility That She Escaped the Rocks Only to Founder With All Hands.**

There are a considerable number of water front frequenters who are inclined to the belief that the bark reported ashore on Point Bonilla on the 18th of November, and described by Lightkeeper Daykin in a letter to the Colonist yesterday morning, was no other than the long overdue Colusa—the inference being that after releasing herself from the death-guards of Bonilla, the unlucky craft has either carried with wind and currents to the north end of the Island, unable to save herself, or gone down in deep water, with all on board.

The fact that Mr. Daykin's description of the distressed bark on Bonilla tallies closely with that of the Colusa—together with the fact that no arriving vessels have filled that description or have reported misadventure at Bonilla, and the Holofoke, Sea Lion and Lorne could find nothing of any vessel in the nearby waters when they made search on the strength of the report of shipwreck, lends color to the presumption.

Mr. Daykin describes the vessel which was on Bonilla, and released herself with the favorable turn of the wind, as a medium-sized bark, painted black, rather smart looking, with double topgallant yards, and a skysail. This is the Colusa to a T; and it is possible also that it applied to the craft that the Dodge's Cove Indians reported to have foundered some where off Long Beach only a few days later than Mr. Daykin's report—November 18.

Until the light-keeper's report set shipping men to thinking, it had been promptly accepted as conclusive that it was the Libertad to which the Indians had referred, although there seems to be no legitimate reason for believing that it was not some other hapless craft—or that this craft was not the missing Colusa.

The only contradictory element contained in the evidence at present available is that Mr. Daykin's sons described the prisoner on Bonilla Point as apparently laden, whereas the Colusa was coming from Honolulu in ballast to make good the damage she had sustained in the Hawaiian Islands, on the Esquimalt marine slip. The light-keeper's sons unfortunately could not speak with certainty on this point.

### MARINE NOTES.

**Movements in Local Shipping Circles During Twenty-Four Hours.**

Two four-masted schooners passed Outer Point in tow yesterday. Tug Lorne towed the Collier Island from Oyster Bay to Royal Roads. An American tug will take the Island to sea.

The salmon-laden bark Coriolanus was towed to the Roads yesterday, preparatory to going to sea. The Killarney, one of the 1899 salmon fleet, will sail this evening.

### PERSONAL.

T. Newby Varty, of Rossland, is at the Diarr. S. Tingley, of Ashcroft, is a guest at the Diarr.

H. C. Manners has returned from a visit to Hot Springs, Wash. The Rochon family orchestra have returned from a tour of the Sound cities. Stanley Whiting, in advance of "Gay Coney Island," is a guest at the Victoria.

C. E. Penhoby, the Seattle steamboat operator, registered at the Victoria yesterday.

John Burns Jr., Norman McLean and Hugh Gilman, of Vancouver, are guests at the Diarr.

George Melan, Brown, executive agent of the C. P. R., returned from Vancouver last evening.

John R. Gleason and eight other members of the "Hot Old Time" company are registered at the Dominion.

Charles Yvon, the labor contractor of Portland, one of the wealthiest and most influential Chinamen on the Coast, is in the city.

Capt. John Robertson, the Alaskan explorer and prospector, has returned from the Sound and again taken up his quarters at the Victoria.

E. H. Braden, manager, and several members of the "Hot Old Time" company, including John "Chinee" Lynch, are at the Victoria.

L. McLean, the Vancouver contractor, is registered at the Dominion. He reports his dyking contract in the neighborhood of Chilliwack as progressing favorably.

Among yesterday's arrivals at the Dominion were T. Costello and M. T. Pratt, from Portland, Or., and Malcolm McLean, one of Vancouver's most popular politicians.

Mr. Hoggan and wife are registered at the Dominion. Mr. Hoggan has just returned from Dawson, meeting his wife at Vancouver on her arrival from her home in London, Eng.

Among the passengers from Seattle yesterday was Mr. J. R. Shaw, of N. P. Shaw & Co., who is accompanied by his bride, formerly Miss Nakken, of Orange, N. J., but recently of Sacramento, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw will remain in the city a day or two before proceeding north to Bennett.

Something New.—A number of ladies with Klondike sleighs enjoyed an afternoon's tobogganing at Beacon Hill Saturday.

Bauxite.—Specimens of bauxite have lately been added to the collection of ores in the possession of Mr. W. E. Best, assayer and analytical chemist, Broad street. This substance is of considerable economic value, being the chief source of the metal aluminum. Prospectors and others interested in minerals can see the bauxite by calling at Mr. Best's. Should this material be found in British Columbia it would be an important addition to the natural resources of the province.

### DIED.

RAITT.—In this city on the 16th inst., F. F. Raitt, a native of Bathurst, N. B., aged 49 years.

The funeral will leave the residence of Mr. Michael Baker, No. 30 Frederick St., at 2:30 on Tuesday, the 19th inst. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

### THE YUKON GARRISON.

**Alleged That Government Have Imperilled Their Health to Save in Fresh Meat Bill.**

From the Canadian Military Gazette.

The ways of the militia department are often more peculiar than those of the proverbial Mongolian. The latest is the treatment of the members of the permanent force in the Yukon.

Ordinarily, men detailed for duty in the extreme North get extra fresh meat rations. This is found absolutely necessary for the maintenance of perfect health. The militia department have reversed this order, and have cut out the allowance and the feeling is running very high among the men.

Until recently, they had fresh beef on alternate days. Now they get it only once a week. There is no possible excuse for this niggardliness on the part of the department. The Mounted Police, who occupy the same barracks, get three rations of 2½ pounds each per week, with double rations for the officers. The soldier's ration for all ranks is only 1½ pounds a week. On special occasions the officer commanding is authorized to increase the soldier's ration to two issues per week. In other words, the soldiers get 1½ pounds per week on ordinary occasions and 3 pounds at very special times, while the Mounted Police get 6½ pounds a week always.

Excepting the fresh beef, the rations are spoken of as very bad; but fresh beef is everything in the Yukon. If the men could only buy a meal outside, things would not be so bad; but their pay is only 80 cents per day, while an ordinary meal costs \$2.50. To make matters worse, the typical soldier's rations in the barracks, and there have been several deaths. By the latest mail word comes that no less than six of the militia and twelve of the police are down.

### ON CANADA OF TO-DAY.

**An Example by Which if Kruger Could Have Profited There Would Have Been No War.**

The London Daily Mail, in a recent issue, published the following article on Canada: The Canada of to-day, so far as the Eastern province of Quebec is concerned, is as distinctly French, in its people, in its institutions and in its tongue, as it was in the days before Wolfe.

In Montreal, the commercial capital of the Dominion, French conditions and institutions are everywhere apparent. Montreal is, indeed, a French town, peopled by French men and women, and adorned by edifices that equal in style and grandeur of architecture and decoration the magnificent cathedrals of the French cities. Buildings like the parish church of Notre Dame, the Jesuits' church, the Notre Dame de Lourdes, and the Notre Dame du Nord, are such as one cannot possibly reconcile with British soil and the British flag.

Yet, what mystery is this? For in their midst, from the beautiful Place d'Armes, rises a majestic statue to the immortal memory of Nelson, who lived his life to drive the French men and women and to plant the Union Jack in all parts of the globe!

But it is no real mystery. The simple solution may be found in the fact that Montreal stands as a great and glorious memorial of British freedom. Here, in the folds of the Union Jack, the people of all nationalities may live in self-government, with their own tongue, religion and historic connections.

Anglo-French Canada is an example to the world, and if Mr. Kruger could have been taught to profit by it, there would have been none of the slaughter that is now depicting British and Boer homes and families.

As it is in Montreal, so it is in Quebec, which is practically an old Breton town, surrounded by French customs, French civil and religious institutions, and contented French people. And from the battlements above flies the British flag as an assurance that these people shall be free to enjoy their ancestral rights under the protective title of British citizens.

At the time Her Majesty ascended the throne the French-Canadians, headed by Louis Papineau, were openly revolting against British rule and British institutions. Yet to-day Canada, represented by men of British and French blood, is sending to South Africa a force which would have been none of the slaughter that is now depicting British and Boer homes and families.

The Liberal and Imperialist Premier of Canada, himself a French-Canadian and a Roman Catholic, has by his action in leading this loyal movement, cemented under the bond of brotherhood that will make Canada a united and contented land.

In a memorable appeal which Sir Wilfrid Laurier once made to the Canadian people he said: "You English-speaking Canadians are the descendants of the British and French of the past, and you are the British and French of the future. The French-speaking Canadians are the descendants of the Bretons, Angevins and Normans who peopled Canada in the sixteenth century. Let us meet together, not to fight, but to hold the grand asseize of peace and contentment."

And the most eloquent evidence that this appeal has been taken to heart is the fact that the Canadian government, headed by a French-Canadian statesman, has, by giving the Mother Country the most practical and hearty hand-shakes of assurance, testified her appreciation of the good government, honorable treatment, and the freedom and protection of the British flag, which have made Canada a great and prosperous Dominion.

The spectacle of one thousand Canadian volunteers, drawn from among the French-Canadians of Quebec, the commercial population of Ontario, the farmers of Manitoba, the hunters and ranchers of the Northwest Territories, the miners and lumberers of British Columbia, the fishermen and farmers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the hardy pioneers of Prince Edward's Isle, is significant.

To the European powers it must convey a sense of wholesome respect.

### CHAMBERLAIN IN DUBLIN.

Dublin, Dec. 17.—Joseph Chamberlain and Mrs. Chamberlain are the guests of Earl Camden, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Countess Cadogan, prior to Mr. Chamberlain receiving a degree from Dublin University on Monday.

### A PARIS FOG.

London, Dec. 17.—Paris was enveloped in a heavy fog all day Saturday. Traffic was greatly impeded, and vehicles of all descriptions, largely crowded along, Light were burning in the houses and on the streets all day. There was no steamboat service on the Seine, and navigation was almost impossible.

### GERMAN CENTURY MAKERS.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—Following the Emperor's lead in ordering festivities in the schools, etc., the Prussian Government has decided that on January 1, 1900, the official beginning of the new century.

## Civic Issues In Vancouver.

**Mr. Macgowan Thinks Deadman's Island Party Too Extreme to Champion.**

**Why the Theories of Some Local Reformers Would Fail in Application.**

Vancouver, Dec. 16.—On being asked by the Colonist correspondent why he had not accepted the proposition of the delegates from the Deadman's Island committee to run for mayor in their interests Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan said: "I think I could not conscientiously coincide altogether with the views of the committee on the Deadman's Island and labor issues. I believe that Deadman's Island can be better utilized, to the advantage of the citizens, than handing it over to the use of one industry, although I think that Mr. Ladgate should be amply compensated by the Dominion government or whoever is to blame, for the expense and annoyance he has been put to and no doubt he will be compensated. Deadman's Island is an ideal site for certain purposes, and I believe it is rightly the property of the city. The seven acres now above ground should be increased to twenty-five. The reclamation of the additional eighteen acres could be accomplished at comparatively little cost. A suitable sea wall should then be built around the island, and a bridge 100 feet wide constructed across the narrowest point to the city. Then abutting from this bridge and from the island itself a series of piers or wharves could be built, each one suitable for the accommodation of a warehouse. Then in the words of Mr. Macgowan, 'the city would have power as a man who is under lease to industries according to the number of hands to be employed,' and each industry could utilize the warehouses on the wharves. 'In regard to the referendum, the poll tax, universal suffrage and other matters,' said Mr. Macgowan, 'I do not think I could fall in heartily with the exact views of the committee who called upon me. I think, for instance, if the citizens are to be asked whether or not the city shall be mortgaged for certain purposes and a by-law is submitted to the people to ascertain their wishes, the citizen who has large interests in the city should have more to say in the matter than one who has very little interests or none at all. It seems to me that a voter who holds no property should not at least have the same voting power as a man who is paying taxes on property. I do not think the single tax is practicable. I think that there should not be such a warm protest from some against the poll tax. All must pay it. A man because he is well-to-do does not escape it. I pay poll tax, income tax, property tax and everything in the way of taxes. I believe every citizen should contribute something towards the current expenses of the city."

"I believe in the referendum, but at present in theory rather than practice. I believe that on important questions of vital interest to the people the view should be ascertained as at least the most satisfactory way of deciding the question. For example, let us suppose there are ten aldermen and a mayor comprising a city's government. I would say that on questions of vital importance, if there was a strong minority of three or say four, the people should be appealed to, but the trouble is, the people are not educated up to the referendum. When a money by-law, or a question talked about from one end of the city to the other, such as the purchase of parks or the extension of the city limits, the result is, the result is that very often the by-law fails to receive a sufficient number of votes, not because the citizens do not approve of the expenditure involved, but because they are too indifferent to walk to the polls and cast their vote."

"I do not say that there is not a great deal to be done by the labor people in the way of reform. I sometimes feel that if I could only meet them half way, if I could induce them to more moderation in some of their demands, I should like to make their cause my cause, and fight their battles with all the strength and influence at my command, but I am afraid that for present purposes I am too moderate. I wish to help the poorer classes and laboring classes and better their condition in every reasonable way, but after my very interesting conversation with the Deadman's Island committee, I am afraid that the committee's views and my own are not sufficiently in accord on all points."

Following is the story of the British surrender at Potchefstroom:

When it was ascertained early in December, 1899, that the Boers were determined to fight, every precaution was taken at Potchefstroom, and the court house and jail were fortified. On the 11th the Boers were reported to be in large force, some 1,500 men, and about 500 mounted Boers rode into the town and took possession of some buildings. Next day several armed Boers rode to within 200 yards of the camp. Col. Winslow, who was in command at the town, ordered a small party of mounted men to ride up and inquire what they wanted. When that officer approached the Boers fired, Lieut. Lindsell then gave the order to his men to charge, which they did most effectively, cutting down two of the enemy and driving the remainder back to the town and the church. The men garrisoning the fort and jail.

A general attack was then made by the Boers on two sides of the fort, but the steady fire of our men soon repulsed them. That evening the water furrow from which the supply of water for the camp was taken was cut off. A well was sunk in a depth of 20 feet, but no water was found. The weather was fearfully hot, and the men suffered terribly when the supply of water was limited. On the 17th it was determined to take the water-carts to a stream half a mile away from camp and fill them. This difficult expedition was entrusted to Lieut. Lindsell, who set out in the day with twenty-five drivers of the Royal Artillery, and a company of the Twenty-first. The company was most successful, and enough water was brought in to last another two days. In the meantime the water in the well was going on, but without result. At length, when the last drop of water had been finished, several new wells were begun, and on December 10 the Royal Artillery struck water at nine feet.

In the meantime the Boers had kept up a hot fire on the fort, the jail, the court house. On the morning of the 18th the court house was fiercely assaulted. The garrison was short of water, and the roof of the building was fired, so it was deemed advisable to surrender. This was done on the understanding that the lives of the defenders should be saved. To the dismay of the garrison of the prison and the fort, first a white flag was seen hoisted over the Union Jack on the building, and a quarter of an hour later the Union Jack was replaced by the flag of the South African Republic. On the 21st the garrison of the prison, falling short of provisions, evacuated it, and retired without loss to the fort. The Boers, encouraged by the capture of the court house, and strongly reinforced, made a great effort to capture the fort on the 22nd. The latter garrison was sorely pressed. Two thousand Boers kept up an

### MEMORABLE SURRENDERS.

**How British Became Prisoners of the Boers—Surrender Brought About by Treachery.**

The Transvaal was annexed, eighty or ninety years ago, in 1857, of its surrender in 1881, after we had suffered reverses, says the Navy and Army, there can be only one opinion: Vestigia nulla retroguntur. Let us turn to the beginning of the events. After successfully breaking the power of the Basuto chief Sekukuni, Sir Garnet Wolseley left the Transvaal with a small garrison, and, as he thought, at peace. But there was much friction between the British and Dutch settlers, the latter protesting against the loss of their freedom. Meeting succeeded meeting, and petition followed petition, until the Boers issued a proclamation declaring their independence.

The Ninety-fourth regiment, which had been stationed at Leydenburg, left that town on December 5, 1880, to reinforce the garrison at Pretoria. The force was composed as follows: 216 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, three women and two children of the Ninety-fourth; two officers and five non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Service Corps; three non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Hospital Corps, and one surgeon, making a total of nine officers and 248 men, with thirty-four wagons. The little force was under the command of Col. Anstruther. Before their departure they had heard rumors of the Boers' rebellion, but they did not believe them. Indeed, Col. Anstruther says in his despatch that the field cornet had told him that though emissaries had been through the country endeavoring to rouse the people to stop the British force, the Boers were not yet ready for war.

In spite of this voluntary assurance the little force, it was subsequently ascertained, was followed all the way from Middleburg by a large mounted force of Boers, who kept well out of sight. The country near Pretoria is very fertile, and the Brookfontein Spruit, is well but not thickly wooded, and favored the advance of cavalry. On reaching this place two or three Boer scouts were noticed, and Col. Anstruther immediately halted his force. Hardly was that done when the enemy appeared in skirmishing order on the left, and a slighter wooded hill on our left. In addition there were large numbers in the rear and on our right flank. Col. Anstruther had been treacherously trapped. The number of Boers altogether was estimated by Col. Anstruther at 1,200.

Col. Anstruther was forced to fight a day of three half wars between the line and Col. Anstruther went out to meet it. The bearer handed him a letter signed "P. Joubert," and counter-signed by other Boers, requesting him to wait where he was until a reply had been received to an ultimatum which had been sent to Sir Owen Lanyon, administrator of the Transvaal. Col. Anstruther replied that he could not wait, as he had orders to proceed with all haste to Pretoria. "I have my orders for Pretoria, and to Pretoria I'll go," he said. The bearer of the message to his commandant general, and when asked by the colonel to let him know the result, nodded assent.

Almost immediately, however, the enemy line advanced. Col. Anstruther ran back to the officers and ordered them to open fire. The Boers were either killed or wounded, and Col. Anstruther ordered the cease fire to be sounded, and hoisted a flag of truce. Two officers were killed and Col. Anstruther himself was severely wounded. The Boers took possession of all arms and ammunition and surrounded the remnant of the little force. The colors of the Ninety-fourth were with the detachment, but they were saved from falling into the hands of the Boers.

Conductor Egerton of the Army Service Corps, though himself wounded, obtained permission from the Boer commandant, Franz Joubert, to go into Pretoria for doctors and ambulances. He was not allowed a horse or arms of any kind, but a sergeant was permitted to accompany him. Some of the men of the Ninety-fourth had torn the colors of the regiment off the poles, and Conductor Ralph Egerton took charge of them on his journey, holding them round his waist. Joubert had previously asked for the guns and colors, and Egerton had replied that there were no guns, and as to the colors, he did not know where they were. At that time the colors were secreted under the wife of Sergeant Major Fox, who was wounded, and kept the colors safe. His gallant action in carrying the colors to Pretoria was subsequently rewarded by a commission in the regiment.

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A general attack was then made by the Boers on two sides of the fort, but the steady fire of our men soon repulsed them. That evening the water furrow from which the supply of water for the camp was taken was cut off. A well was sunk in a depth of 20 feet, but no water was found. The weather was fearfully hot, and the men suffered terribly when the supply of water was limited. On the 17th it was determined to take the water-carts to a stream half a mile away from camp and fill them. This difficult expedition was entrusted to Lieut. Lindsell, who set out in the day with twenty-five drivers of the Royal Artillery, and a company of the Twenty-first. The company was most successful, and enough water was brought in to last another two days. In the meantime the water in the well was going on, but without result. At length, when the last drop of water had been finished, several new wells were begun, and on December 10 the Royal Artillery struck water at nine feet.

In the meantime the Boers had kept up a hot fire on the fort, the jail, the court house. On the morning of the 18th the court house was fiercely assaulted. The garrison was short of water, and the roof of the building was fired, so it was deemed advisable to surrender. This was done on the understanding that the lives of the defenders should be saved. To the dismay of the garrison of the prison and the fort, first a white flag was seen hoisted over the Union Jack on the building, and a quarter of an hour later the Union Jack was replaced by the flag of the South African Republic. On the 21st the garrison of the prison, falling short of provisions, evacuated it, and retired without loss to the fort. The Boers, encouraged by the capture of the court house, and strongly reinforced, made a great effort to capture the fort on the 22nd. The latter garrison was sorely pressed. Two thousand Boers kept up an

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Incessant and rapid fire for some time, but made no visible impression. Nothing of note occurred until the 5th, when the Boers occupied the cemetery, about 300 yards to our left. Lieut. Lindsell and a party of volunteers made their way down by moonlight, and drove the Boers back to the town. This little expedition was afterwards spoken of by the Boers as the most gallant feat we did during the siege. Lieut. Dalrymple Hay led the attack and was successful in gaining possession of a troublesome position and capturing four prisoners and some ammunition, waterproof coats and trenching tools. Soon after this engagement a truce was called, and an exchange of prisoners took place. But as soon as the truce was over being bring again.

From that time to the end of the siege nothing of much interest occurred. Food ran very short in the fort. By the beginning of March rations had fallen to four ounces of meat, ½ ounce of coffee and 1½ pound unground meal. Tea and biscuits were all gone. Fever, dysentery and scurvy broke out. There was heavy fighting on March 17 and 18. At length, on the 20th, Col. Winslow decided that it would be better to surrender with honorable terms than be forced to surrender unconditionally in three days' time—for provisions could not last till then. On the 21st therefore the surrender was made. When Col. Winslow surrendered, he was entirely ignorant that an armistice of eight days had been declared, having been misled by the lying statements of the Boer leaders. Tardy reparation was afterwards made for this treachery. The siege had lasted three months and five days, and our total casualties were 83 killed, wounded and prisoners out of 213.

### NOTES OF FAME.

"Cheer up," said the disconsolate poet's friend, "your name will be well known to posterity."

"Perhaps," was the answer, "May be some of my descendants will be good foot."

## Kandy Lisc of Victoria Firms

### BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS.

M. R. SMITH & CO., Victoria, B.C., Manufacturers of all kinds of Plain and Fancy Biscuits and Cakes.

### BOOK EXCHANGE.

CASHMORE'S, 103 Douglas street; buys and exchanges all kinds of books and novels.

### DRAYMAN.

JOSEPH HEANEY, Truck and Drayman—Office, York street, between 110 and 112 Superior street; Telephone 171.

### FUNERAL DIRECTOR & EMBALMERS.

CHAS. HAYWARD, 52 Government street.

### HARDWARE.

E. G. PRIOR & CO.—Hardware and Agricultural Implements. Cor. Johnson and Government.

HICKMAN TYE HARDWARE CO., Ltd.—Importers of iron, steel, hardware, pipe fittings, cutlery, etc. Mining and milling supplies a specialty.

### IRONWORKS.

VICTORIA MACHINERY DEPOT CO., Ltd. (Incl. Smith & Gray)—Engineers, founders, machinists, etc., 17 and 19 Work street. Telephone 570.

### LIVERY AND TRANSFERS.

VICTORIA TRUCK & DRAY CO.—Telephone 13.

### MINING BROKERS.

BEN. WILLIAMS & CO., 44 Fort street, mining brokers. Stocks and shares sold on commission. Correspondence solicited.

### NOVELTY WORKS.

L. HAFFER, general machinist, 150 Government street.

STEAM COFFEE AND SPICE MILLS. STEINER & EARLE, Coffee, spices, mustard and baking powders. Pembroke st., near Government.

### PLUMBERS.

E. F. GEIGER, sanitary plumbing, gas and hot water fitting. Tel. 229.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES.—R. Maynard, 41 Pandora street.—All kinds of photographic material for amateurs and professionals. Kodaks, Pictors, Koronas, Primos, etc. Same block Mrs. R. Maynard's Art Studio; also views of British Columbia and Alaska for sale.

Same Block—Maynard's Shoe and Fitting store, 41 Pandora street; boots, shoes, leather and shoe findings; "



## This Week in The Playhouses.

Attractive Repertoire of the  
Australians Following "A  
Hot Old Time."

Pathetic Incident of Vaudeville  
Life--Notes of the Play  
Elsewhere.

The engagement of the all-Australian company headed by the talented H. R. Roberts, for every day of this week except this evening, at the Victoria theatre, is notable in more respects than one. In the first place Mr. Roberts occupies an especially distinguished position in the world of dramatic art. He has been termed the Maudslayi of Australia; and, ranking easily at the head of the native-born actors of the Antipodes, he certainly resembles the great American with whom he is compared, in his thoroughness of study and regard for detail, as well as in a certain devotion to ideals that is not characteristic of the great majority of leading players of the day. Mr. Roberts has had a large and varied experience in his chosen profession, and declares that the drama is now in a dormant state—that it has gone as far in the scale of degeneration as it will go; and may now be expected naturally to improve in quality and strength. The public has become satiated with light, frivolous material, familiarity with which has created a tendency to look slightly upon more pretentious and serious work; and the public having arrived at this point, a general revival of standard works and a relegation of the frothy, flippant skits which have held sway during the past decade, Mr. Roberts thinks will follow. He contends that when a performance relies upon specialties and not art for success, the final condition of deterioration has arrived; and a revulsion of feeling must ensue that will once more bring a recognition of skill and the thorough, skilful plays of the past again assert their superiority.

Mr. Roberts, though young in years, is old in experience, for he commenced his career with his father's company at Calcutta, India, when but six years old. Since then he has appeared in almost every branch of his profession, playing all sorts of parts, and was associated with the leading actors of the English and Australian stage. The experience gained amongst these people he has without doubt used to the very best advantage, and he is quoted as the most clever and versatile actor of the Australian stage, and one of the cleverest having appeared in this country.

"Most of my experience," said Mr. Roberts in a recent talk with the press, "was gained with the old stock companies, when the bills were changed much more frequently than they are now. I have played as many as fifteen parts in one week; three and four parts a week being not by any means an unusual task. I remember once, in Brisbane, 'doubling' the parts of Harvey Puff and Polliot in 'The Shaughraun.' To do so I had to chase myself all over

the stage, and eventually catch myself escaping from prison. Of course I had a double to assist me, but he was so fearfully knocked about by Conn that he refused to go on after the first night, and has never been heard of since. I only state this, by the way, as a sample of the humorous incidents we occasionally meet with on the stage.

"What are my views of the tendencies of the modern drama?" Well," replied Mr. Roberts, "that is rather a large order. I certainly think that for the last three or four years, or longer, the public taste has leaned, to an alarming extent, toward the frivolous so-called farce-comedy. I do not mean the genuine farce-comedy, such as 'Our Boys,' 'Betsy,' etc., or such a comedy as 'A Prodigal Father,' but those flimsy hashies, which are a mere peg to hang a number of vaudeville turns on, which should never be classed as comedies at all.

"Many playwrights have been writing these things to satisfy the public taste, knowing only too well that their work, in nine cases out of ten, was unworthy of them, and in many instances of the people engaged in their representation. However, I am quite certain that the public has had a surfeit of trash and is now hungering after something more substantial, from a literary point of view.

"The theatre-going public wants its palate tickled, but the difficult problem is what to give it to tickle that palate. If you buy a youngster a cheap doll and it licks all the paint off of it, the child naturally doesn't want any more cheap

doll; probably it doesn't want any more doll at all, but, certes, it doesn't want cheap stuff. So with the public. Give them good plays and they want more; on the other hand, switch on a lot of rot and they become tired after a while.

"But the general taste is coming round to the better class of work, and it will not be very long before we shall witness a grand revival of Shakespeare and the solid standard works. Then you will find that the modern writers will adapt themselves to the public want, and write better and more brilliant pieces. If I had my choice of plays I would certainly prefer those of the higher order. I am very fond of romantic drama; Shakespeare I dearly love; and I also have a great liking for the old-fashioned comedy. The sooner the works of the old masters return to popular favor, the better for our profession, for they materially help to make better actors of us.

"My experience has taught me that an actor without a good groundwork schooling of Shakespeare has a great deal to learn. Of course we are learning all the time, but it is not until one has played many of the lesser and some of the leading parts of Shakespeare that one begins to realize the importance of every word of every line the immortal bard has written. All the old actors were compelled to have a Shakespearean education. In their days it was considered the alphabet of the theatrical profession.

"I do not intend to assert for a moment that all farce-comedies are rubbish. Certainly not. Some are very good,



"A HOT OLD TIME."

clever, extremely humorous and most enjoyable; but there are a great number, as all theatre-goers know, that are far from clever, and at times really vulgar. As Shakespeare says, 'I thought it makes the unskilful laugh, it cannot but make the judicious grave.' The whole one in your allowance must outweigh a whole theatre of others."

"The 'Hot Old Time' which the Ray's No. 3 Company present this evening is just such a patchwork of burlesque and vaudeville as Mr. Roberts' condemnation so vigorously. It is a laugh-creator, and aims to be nothing more dignified or worthy of serious consideration. Its authors and producers have risen from the regular ranks of the vaudeville, and of course they carry their specialty with them. At the same time there is material for thoughtful consideration in their responsive defence of the much-abused modern farce-comedy. The legitimate drama, they observe, is not quite the thing to lighten the hearts of the toilers and ease their weary target, the work and worry of the day. In America more especially the masses are the chief patrons of the playhouse; they go to be amused, to see and hear something entertaining, and the players' duty is not ill-performed because the production is sufficiently light as to call for no serious thought on the part of the audience. As it takes all kinds of people to make a world, so does it take all kinds of plays—and the fun-crowded farce-comedy of this end of the century may be said to have just as distinct a mission (if a humbler one) as the dramatic masterpieces of past and present days. "A Hot Old Time" does not claim to be more than a hurrying, laughter-laden farce, coupling comedy with the play—but it is stated to be one of the best of its very modern class. The play has been re-written by George M. Cohan since last season, the third act being entirely new, and many original and taking features having been added elsewhere. The plot is one of mistaken identity, and tells the story of Larry Mooney, an expressman, who is mistaken for O'Donovan Dunn, member of parliament, making his first visit to America. Gen. Stonewall Blazer, who has two marriageable daughters, showers favors upon him, and he has a merry time until the real Mr. Dunn arrives. It is promised by the management that the company presenting the farce here this evening is one of the strongest and most pretentious farce-comedy organiza-

tions on the road. Each member appears to have been selected for individual specialties aside from the comedy ability. A novelty is the finale of the second act of the comedy, when the entire company appear in a grand cake-walk, introducing the greatest of all cake-walkers and dancers, John and Bertie Gleeson. An added feature for the present tour is the world's greatest novelty danseuse, Annie St. Tel, known throughout the East and all Europe as 'The Bounding Antelope.'

A little thing happened at the Savoy last week which again illustrates the spontaneousness and large-heartedness of Bohemian charity. It was nothing of a nature calling for heroics, but at the same time it is deserving of mention in order that patrons of the vaudeville houses may possibly amend some of their hastily formed theories with regard to the female variety performer lacking the tender sympathies of unprofessional womanhood. Elsie Evans, a poor little performer of the Delmonico staff, had worked two days of her engagement, and then was missed from rehearsal and performance. She was sick, it was explained, and the majority were inclined to drop the subject there and then, as no concern of theirs. Not so Kate Rockwell. Her Irish heart had never failed to respond to a cry of genuine distress; and she promptly looked up the suffering member of the sisterhood. She was very sick, and Kathleen recognized it. She was also alone and unaided, and Kathleen did not propose that this should be. She and Eva Ralston had a confer-

ence. Eva gave up her room to the sick girl; and she and Kathleen divided the duty of nursing between them. While the show was on, and the music and laughter and light filled the theatre, one or other of the two was sure to make time to slip away for a minute or two and "cheer up the sick girl." But even faithful friendship and good nursing could not cure. The doctors said an operation was the only thing to save Elsie Evans' life—and its success was problematical. The sufferer wanted home and mother's touch. Kate Rockwell determined she should have it. For four days she busied herself with a little quiet mission of mercy among the performers, and on Saturday she handed the sick girl a first class ticket for her home in Chicago and a little purse of money sufficient to "see her through all right." Then she slipped away to escape thanks, for when Kathleen Rockwell does a kindly act she isn't looking for bouquets. "It's a pretty blue Christmas for her, poor girl," says Miss Rockwell, referring to little Elsie—"but she'll be with her mother and home, and that's a big thing when you're sick and it's Christmas time."

San Francisco's Music and Drama thus pays its respects to a gentleman well known to all British Columbians, and whose rank offence in the eyes of Music and Drama is that he has managed to make a success of his theatrical business without the assistance of the said Music and Drama: "Managers of travelling combinations who have visited Vancouver and Victoria are going to ask Man-

ager Jamieson, of those two lively towns to pose for the portrait of The Man With the Hammer. They all say Jamieson is a good fellow and a very impartial one. He simply thinks all shows are bad and hammers them all, preferably those that are going to play at his own houses. The beauty of it all is that his patrons don't take his tips and when he wires from Victoria to Vancouver that a show is bad the people in the last-named town simply pack the house."

Robert Elliott of the "Shenandoah" Company, which has an early date at the Victoria, has been getting advertising galore during the San Francisco and Oakland engagement of the company. In the first place he won several columns (with cuts) by getting married to Miss Carolyn R. Dempsey after an unbroken courtship of four days. Then he had his honeymoon rudely disturbed by getting caught on the Oakland side of the bay and the last ferry gone. He chartered a tugboat in order to save his bride from anxiety, and now—although an actor or man—he is being held up to all the young bachelors of San Francisco as a model of what a good husband should be.

All new faces is the rule for this week at the Savoy, the bill for to-night and ensuing evenings, introducing Misses Walthers and Forrest, two tuneful vocalists who have just arrived from California; the five acrobatic St. Leons; John Bragg and Miss Ella Ashton; Miss Kate Sprague, "queen of chanteuses"; Conlon and Ryder, Personi and Romani, the Kellys, Stanley and Scandlon, Eva Ralston and half a dozen others.

Business has been immense this season with the great James-Kidder-Hanford "three star combination." For the past six weeks the nightly receipts have averaged over \$1000 and Managers Wagonhals and Kemper report that they are breaking records all along the line. "The Winter's Tale," which is the piece de resistance of this season, will be the most elaborate scenic production of a legitimate play ever seen on this Coast.

Hugh Chivers, who will be remembered as baritone with the Pauline Hall Operatic Company, which visited this city several years ago, and Miss Dorothy Morton, have prominent parts in F. C. Whitely's new musical comedy, "The Greek Slave," now receiving its initial production at the Herald Square theatre, New York.

Charles D. Herman, Frank Hennig, Henry C. Barton, Charles H. Barker, Gregory Raymond, Alexander McKee and Henry Buckley, all well known in connection with first class legitimate combinations, are with the Frederick Warde Company.

The Moore-Roberts Company open in "The Silence of Dean Maitland" at the Victoria tomorrow evening, repeating this great play on Wednesday, and giving "David Garrick" on Thursday and Friday; and "A Prodigal Father" at matinee and evening performances Saturday.

Music and Drama says that Fred Cooper, who has been playing "The Lone Fisherman" in "Evangeline," "makes the most of a long part without a line, excepting the one attached to his busy fishing rod."

"At Gay Coney Island" follows the Moore-Roberts Company here, on the evening of the 27th.

GREASEPAINT.



THEY BRIGHTEN THE WORLD

"A HOT OLD TIME" TO-NIGHT.



MR. H. R. ROBERTS—"The Silence of Dean Maitland."

# CHRISTMAS WINES

## SPECIAL IMPORTATION.

G. H. MUMM & CO'S.  
"EXTRA DRY."

The importation list of Champagnes, just to hand, compiled from official United States Customs House records from Jan. 1st to Dec. 1st, 1899, shows that for that period there were imported into the United States 97,083 cases. During the first week in December, this amount was increased to

OVER 100,000 CASES.

These figures, which do not include the large quantity imported direct by PITHER & LEISER, are by far the largest imports ever attained by any Champagne house into the United States.

The imports of MUMM'S "EXTRA DRY" for the closing year of 1899 will largely exceed those of any previous year, and are greatly in excess of those of any other brand. It all goes to prove that the public appreciate a wine that continues its high excellence unvaried from year to year.

RHINE WINES

Following is a list of these delicious wines, specially imported for the Christmas Trade, from the famous house of Gebr. Feist & Sohne, Frankfort-on-Main, Germany.

LAUBENHIMER	1893.
NIERSTEINER	1893.
LIEBFRAUMILCH	1893.
RUDESHEIMER	1893.
ZELTINGER	1893.
BERNCASTELER DOCTOR	1899.

RED AND WHITE WINES.

PRELLER'S CLARETS AND SAUTERNES,  
B. BERT'S SAUTERNES,  
F. DESBOME & CIE.  
CLARETS AND SAUTERNES.

These high-class French Wines have been handled by our house for upwards of thirty years, a proof of their excellent qualities.

Of the above Wines we sell only in quantities of one case and upwards. Anyone desiring a lesser quantity can be directed to a dealer where they can purchase the same.

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